\We have previously noted how much the post office and telegraph have done to tie the nation together, The government postal service of to-day first arose through foreign initiative under the Customs. In 1896 it was formally established by imperial decree. Although the control is in Chinese hands, a few foreigners were long associated with its supervision. It has had a remarkable record in maintaining its service throughout the country in the face of the civil disorder of the past two decades. Its agents have frequently been known to get the mails through bandit lines into a beleaguered town. By money orders and parcel post as well as the transmission of letters it has contributed to the unification of the nation. By association with the postal system of the world it helps to keep China in touch with other lands. In 1908 the telegraphs of the country passed into the hands of the state. To-day a network of lines connects the chief cities and many of the towns of the Republic. The radio, too, has been developed most remarkably, both for internal and for international communications.

SUMMARY

Obviously the fate of China is inextricably bound tip with economics. No nation in which great areas are overpopulated, in some of whose districts famine is recurrent, and in which millions are underclothed and undernourished can hope easily to maintain a stable government. Under such conditions, always there will be discontented spirits who prefer rebellion to starvation. As we have noted before, China is caught in a vicious circle. Under the great Manchu Emperors population increased rapidly. For more than a century these rulers had so maintained internal peace and order that the margin of subsistence expanded.

With the collapse of the Ch'ing dynasty and of the old form of government, and with the ensuing political disorder, the margin shrank rapidly. As a result, millions were left stranded. Thousands of these entered the armies and other thousands became bandits. The result has been the still further restriction of the margin of existence, more distress, and more fighting and banditry. The political and the economic problem go hand in hand. Both must be solved together.

Yet the Chinese have by no means entirely failed in their economic life. Even to keep alive so huge a population has been and